

**PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: 11-4-04

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Satisfactory Documentary Evidence of
Equivalent Degree for Licensure as a
Physical Therapist

Sections Affected: (1) 1398.26.1 adopt

PROBLEM ADDRESSED: Pursuant to section 2653 of the Business and Professions Code (B & P), the foreign educated physical therapist (FEPT) applicant is required to furnish documentary evidence satisfactory to the Board that he or she has completed the equivalent professional degree to that issued by a United States accredited physical therapist education program in a physical therapist education program that entitles the applicant to practice as a physical therapist in the country where the diploma was issued.

Currently, all FEPT's credentials are being evaluated by approved credential evaluation services on a course work evaluation tool that is based on the current US educational standards, regardless of the FEPT's graduation date. This single tool does not address education received previously that would be acceptable for applicants who are graduates of accredited programs. The tool is not currently defined in regulation.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE: To define in regulation tools to be used to provide satisfactory evidence of education and to ensure application of a fair standard for those educated outside of the United States comparable to the standard for applicants who are graduates of accredited US educational programs.

FACTUAL BASIS: This section defines the tools to document satisfactory evidence of education requirements for licensure by foreign educated physical therapist graduates.

UNDERLYING DATA: Accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE) and its predecessor organizations.

SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT: These regulations will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES OR EQUIPMENT: None

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES: No alternative, which were considered, would either be more effective than or equally less burdensome than the proposed regulations.